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AUTHOR	Koenker, Robert H.
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ABSTRACT

This document presents the results of a survey of 311 graduate deans that was designed to discover the number of institutions offering, planning to offer, or considering the possibility of offering the Doctor of Arts degree and the number of institutions offering doctoral programs similar to the Doctor of Arts degree. The number of institutions offering, planning to offer, or considering the possibility of offering the D.A. degree has decreased from 87 in 1971 to 60 in 1972. This is probably due to the following factors: the oversupply of doctoral graduates, the uncertainty of the times in graduate education, the restrictions on new doctoral programs imposed by many state boards for higher education, and the financial problems that currently face many institutions of higher education. It is felt by those who are favorable toward the D.A. degree that such a degree should become the standard degree for college teaching in the U.S. This is so because it is projected that by the late 1970's approximately half of all college students will be enrolled in 2-year colleges, and the research oriented Ph.D. degree is not designed to prepare teachers for such institutions. (HS)

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STATUS OF THE DOCTOR OF ARTS DEGREE

Robert H. Koenker*

November 30, 1972

In March, 1970, and in November, 1971, the writer conducted nationwide surveys on the status of the Doctor of Arts degree. In order to update these two previous studies, questionnaires were sent to the graduate deans of the 301 member institutions of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States on October 13, 1972. In addition, questionnaires were sent to the graduate deans of 10 non-member institutions known or thought to be offering graduate programs beyond the Master's degree. In mid-November, 1972, a follow-up questionnaire was sent to those institutions which had not responded. This study is based on responses from 293 graduate deans. Eighteen of the 311 graduate deans failed to respond to the questionnaire as of November 30, 1972. Nine of these 18 institutions which did not respond offer Ph.D. degree programs.

The following table gives the number of institutions offering, planning to offer, or considering the possibility of offering the Doctor of Arts degree; and the number of institutions offering doctoral programs similar to the Doctor of Arts degree for the three studies.

NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS OFFERING, PLANNING TO OFFER, OR CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF OFFERING THE DOCTOR OF ARTS DEGREE; AND THE NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS OFFERING DOCTORAL PROGRAMS SIMILAR TO THE DOCTOR OF ARTS DEGREE

Year and Month of Study**	Offer the D.A. Degree	Planning to Offer the D.A. Degree	Considering the Possibility of Offering the D.A. Degree	Offering Doctoral Program(s) Similar to the D.A. Degree	Total
March, 1970	3	27	46	12	88
November, 1971	16	11	60	52	139
November, 1972	20	7	33	48***	108

**Based on returned questionnaires as follows: 1970, 267/300; 1971, 272/300; and 1972, 293/311.

***Includes 4 institutions which offer the D.A. degree, 1 institution which is definitely planning to offer the D.A., and 5 institutions which are considering the possibility of offering the D.A. degree.

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The number of institutions offering, planning to offer, or considering the possibility of offering the D.A. degree has decreased from 87 in 1971, to 60 in 1972. This is probably due to the following factors: the oversupply of doctoral graduates, the uncertainty of the times in graduate education, the restrictions on new doctoral programs imposed by many state boards for higher education, and the financial problems which currently face many institutions of higher learning.

*Dean, Graduate School, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana 47306

In answer to the question--"Does your institution now offer the Doctor of Arts degree? ____yes, ____no. If yes, name the major field(s) of study and the year the program was instituted."--it was found that 20 institutions are currently offering the Doctor of Arts degree as follows: (These institutions were also asked to name any new majors which were being planned.)

1. Ball State University - music (1971), planning new programs in science, social science, health science, and environmental studies.
2. Brown University - English: creative writing (1971), may add program in creative arts.
3. Carnegie-Mellon University - mathematics (1967), English (1967), history (1967), fine arts-music, painting, sculpture (1967), chemistry (1972).
4. Catholic University of America - English (1971), biology-medical technology (1972), planning new programs in drama (1973-74) and economics (1973-74).
5. Claremont Graduate School - botany (1971), French studies (1971), government (1971).
6. Drake University - English (1972).
7. Idaho State University - English (1971), biology (1971), mathematics (1971), government (1971).
8. Lehigh University - economics (1971), government (1971), psychology (1971).
9. Middle Tennessee University - English (1970), history (1970), physical education (1970), planning to add programs in social sciences (1975), natural sciences (1975), and psychology (1975).
10. Ohio State University - Slavic languages and literature (1971), economics under consideration.
11. State University of New York at Albany - economics (1971), English (1971), planning new programs in physics, Spanish, literature, and public affairs.
12. Syracuse University - English (1972).
13. University of Michigan - English (1971), Speech (1973?).
14. University of Mississippi - music (1970), English (1971), political science (1971), planning to add chemistry in 1972-73.
15. University of North Dakota - biology (1970), history (1970), planning to add geology.
16. University of Northern Colorado - geological science (1970), chemistry (1970), geography (1970), history (1970), mathematics (1970), planning to add English in 1972 or 1973, and music in 1973.
17. University of Oregon - English (1969) (not typical D.A. degree).
18. University of the Pacific - English literature (1970-71).
19. University of Washington - Germanic languages (1970), planning new programs in physics (1972-73) and chemistry (1972-73), considering program in geological sciences (1974).
20. Washington State University - chemistry (1972), planning to add mathematics and speech.

In answer to the question--"How many D.A. degrees has your institution granted as of September 1, 1972?"--the following institutions reported D.A. degrees granted as follows: Carnegie-Mellon University, 46; University of Mississippi, 3; University of Northern Colorado, 25; University of North Dakota, 4; University of Oregon, 57; and University of Washington, 1.

In answer to the question--"Are you definitely planning to offer the Doctor of Arts degree at a future date? ____yes, ____no. If yes, name the major field(s) of study and the year the program will be established."--it was found that seven institutions were definitely planning to offer the Doctor of Arts degree as follows:

1. Appalachian State University - behavioral sciences (1974-75), humanities (1974-75), social sciences (1974-75), mathematics (1974-75).
2. Northern Arizona University - history (1975), political science (1975) (pending approval of Arizona Board of Regents).
3. Southern Illinois University - business education, behavioral science, physical science.
4. University of Illinois at Chicago Circle - chemistry (1973), mathematics (1973), biology (1973), German (1973), physics (1973).
5. University of South Carolina - romance languages (1973) (pending approval by State Commission on Higher Education).
6. Western Illinois University - biological sciences and geography (pending approval by Higher Board).
7. Yeshiva University - Judaic studies (1973).

In answer to the question--"Are you currently considering the possibility of offering the Doctor of Arts degree in the future? ____yes, ____no."--it was found that the following 33 institutions were currently considering the possibility of offering the D.A. degree:

1. Adelphi University
2. Bowling Green State University
3. California State University, Fresno
4. Canisius College
5. Case Western Reserve University
6. Central Missouri State University
7. Central Michigan University
8. Creighton University
9. Eastern Michigan University
10. Eastern New Mexico University
11. Florida State University
12. George Peabody College
13. Indiana State University
14. Lamar University
15. North Texas State University
16. Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago
17. Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn
18. Seton Hall University
19. University of Arizona
20. University of Alabama in Birmingham
21. University of California, Los Angeles
22. University of Connecticut
23. University of Iowa
24. University of Louisville
25. University of Miami
26. University of Minnesota
27. University of Northern Iowa
28. University of Rhode Island
29. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
30. University of Wyoming
31. Utah State University
32. Western Michigan University
33. Wright State University

Several of the institutions planning to offer or considering the possibility of offering the D.A. degree stated that a moratorium on new doctoral programs was delaying the initiating of the D.A. degree. In addition, several institutions reported that D.A. degree proposals were pending approval of the state commission or coordinating board for higher education.

In answer to the question--"Does your institution offer doctoral programs similar to the Doctor of Arts degree for preparing college teachers in subject fields? ____yes, ____no. If yes, please explain."--it was found that 48 institutions were offering such programs as follows:

PROGRAMS SIMILAR TO THE DOCTOR OF ARTS DEGREE OFFERED BY FORTY-EIGHT INSTITUTIONS*

Program	Frequency	Program	Frequency
Ph.D.	16	C. Phil.	1
Ed.D.	10	TTT Program	1
Ph.D. and Ed.D.	9	STB	1
All doctoral programs	2	Master of Mathematics	1
Ed.D., Ph.D., or D.M.Ed.	1	Ed.S. & Diploma for Advanced Study	1
Ed.D. and D.M.A.	1	Not described	1
Doctor of Engineering	1		
M. Phil.	2		

*Includes 4 institutions which offer the D.A. degree, 1 institution which is definitely planning to offer the D.A. degree, and 5 institutions which are considering the possibility of offering the D.A. degree.

Forty institutions offer doctoral programs, usually Ph.D. and/or Ed.D. degree programs, which they consider similar to the D.A. degree by requiring a teaching experience. Seven other institutions consider sub-doctoral programs similar to the D.A. degree, and one institution did not name the doctoral program. It is significant to note that the majority of these 48 institutions are of the opinion that the only difference between the D.A. degree and other doctoral degrees is a teaching experience. No mention was made as to how these similar doctoral programs called for greater breadth of preparation, a professional education core, a different type of dissertation, a teaching externship in a two-year or four-year college, or any of the other basic differences between the D.A. degree and other types of doctoral degrees.

Nine of 40 institutions which reported offering doctoral programs similar to the D.A. degree commented that the Ph.D. degree had a double-track option or that some Ph.D. and/or Ed.D. degree programs had been revised so as to make them similar to the D.A. degree. It would seem that such practices will further confuse the basic purposes of the Ph.D., Ed.D., and D.A. degrees and the degree labels will lose their meanings.

In answer to the question--"Is there sufficient flexibility in existing doctoral programs at your institution so that a department could offer a D.A. degree type program under an existing Doctor's degree without formally instituting the D.A. degree? ____yes, ____no. If yes, please explain."--the results were as follows:

IS THERE SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY IN EXISTING DOCTORAL PROGRAMS SO THAT A D.A. DEGREE TYPE PROGRAM COULD BE OFFERED UNDER AN EXISTING DOCTORAL PROGRAM?

Type of Institution	Yes	No	No Response	Total
Now Offer the D.A. Degree	3	16	1	20
Definitely Planning to Offer the D.A. Degree	1	5	1	7
Considering the Possibility of Offering the D.A. Degree	8	18	7	33
Offering Doctoral Program(s) Similar to the D.A. Degree	29	16	3	48*
Other Institutions	24	115	56	195
Total	65	170	68	293**

*Includes 4 institutions which offer the D.A. degree, 1 institution which is definitely planning to offer the D.A. degree, and 5 institutions which are considering the possibility of offering the D.A. degree.

**This total figure includes the above 10 institutions only once or 303-10 = 293.

Sixty-five of the 293 institutions reported that there was sufficient flexibility in existing doctoral programs to offer a D.A. degree type program, 170 reported that such flexibility didn't exist, and 68 did not respond to the question. Several of the 170 institutions which reported that insufficient flexibility existed to offer a D.A. degree type program under existing doctoral programs went on to say that existing doctoral programs could be modified or were going to be modified to include some of the basic elements of the D.A. degree.

In answer to the question--"Do you consider it an acceptable practice to offer a D.A. degree type program under an existing Doctor's degree without formally instituting the D.A. degree? ____yes, ____no. If yes, please explain."--the results were as follows:

IS IT AN ACCEPTABLE PRACTICE TO OFFER A D.A. DEGREE TYPE PROGRAM UNDER AN EXISTING DOCTOR'S DEGREE?

Type of Institution	Yes	No	No Response	Total
Now Offer the D.A. Degree	1	17	2	20
Definitely Planning to Offer the D.A. Degree	0	7	0	7
Considering the Possibility of Offering the D.A. Degree	11	19	3	33
Offering Doctoral Programs Similar to the D.A. Degree	24	12	2	38
Other Institutions	38	129	28	195
Total	74	184	35	293

Seventy-four of the 293 graduate deans were of the opinion that it is an acceptable practice to offer a D.A. degree type program under an existing doctoral program even though the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States clearly defines in its publications the differences which should exist among the various doctoral degrees.

In answer to the question--"What is your general assessment of the Doctor of Arts Degree?"--the results were as follows:

GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THE DOCTOR OF ARTS DEGREE

Response	Offer the D.A. Degree	Planning to Offer the D.A. Degree	Considering the Possibility of Offering the D.A. Degree	Offering Doctoral Programs Similar to the D.A. Degree	Other Institutions	Total
Very Favorable	15	4	4	1	6	30
Favorable	3	3	11	4	26	47
Neutral			8	5	27	40
Unfavorable			5	17	64	86
Very Unfavorable				3	9	12
Uncertain	2		1		6	9
No Response			4	8	57	69
Total	20	7	33	38	195	293

The 60 institutions which offer, are planning to offer, or considering the possibility of offering the D.A. degree generally assess the D.A. degree in a very favorable or favorable light. The 38 institutions which offer doctoral programs similar to the D.A. degree, and the 195 institutions which do not, tend to regard the D.A. degree in a neutral or unfavorable manner.

In conclusion, it might be said that more institutions will need to offer D.A. degree programs to prepare the "teacher-scholars" which are needed by two-year and four-year colleges. It has been estimated that by the late 1970's approximately half of all college students will be enrolled in two-year colleges. The research oriented Ph.D. degree is not designed to prepare teachers for such type institutions. Clark Kerr, Chairman of the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education, has stated that the Doctor of Arts should become the standard degree for college teaching in the United States. There are many others who would agree with him.